

What is claimed is:

1. An ophthalmic composition comprising a component selected from the group consisting of magainin antimicrobial peptides, analogs of magainin antimicrobial peptides and mixtures thereof present in
5 an amount effective as a preservative in said composition, wherein said composition includes a therapeutically effective component.

2. The composition of claim 1 wherein said component is present in an amount less than about 10 milligrams per milliliter.

3. The composition of claim 1 wherein said component is present in an amount less than about 1 milligram per milliliter.

4. The composition of claim 1 wherein said component is present in an amount less than about 0.1 milligram per milliliter.

5. The composition of claim 1 which further comprises water and an effective amount of a buffer component in an amount effective to provide said composition with a desired pH.

6. The composition of claim 1 which further comprises an effective amount of a tonicity component in an amount effective to provide said composition with a desired osmolality.

7. The composition of claim 1 wherein said composition is a surgical irrigant.

8. The composition of claim 1 wherein said component is a sole preservative.

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9. The composition of claim 1 wherein said composition is an oil-in-water emulsion.

10. The composition of claim 1 wherein said composition is a solution.

11. The composition of claim 1 wherein said composition is a suspension.

12. The composition of claim 1 wherein said composition is applied onto or into an eye.

13. The composition of claim 1 wherein said component is a magainin antimicrobial peptide.

14. The composition of claim 1 wherein said component is an analog of a magainin antimicrobial peptide comprising the amino acid sequence GIGKFLKKAKKFGKAFVKILKK.

15. An ophthalmic composition comprising a component selected from the group consisting of magainin antimicrobial peptides, analogs of magainin antimicrobial peptides and mixtures thereof present in an amount effective as a preservative in said composition, wherein said component is a sole preservative in said composition.

16. The composition of claim 15 wherein said component is present in an amount less than about 10 milligrams per milliliter.

17. The composition of claim 15 wherein said component is present in an amount less than about 1 milligram per milliliter.

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18. The composition of claim 15 wherein said component is present in an amount less than about 0.1 milligram per milliliter.

19. The composition of claim 15 which further comprises water and an effective amount of a buffer component in an amount effective to provide said composition with a desired pH.

20. The composition of claim 15 which further comprises an effective amount of a tonicity component in an amount effective to provide said composition with a desired osmolality.

21. The composition of claim 15 wherein said composition is a surgical irrigant.

22. The composition of claim 15 wherein said composition is a solution.

23. The composition of claim 15 wherein said composition is a suspension.

24. The composition of claim 15 wherein said component is an oil-in-water emulsion.

25. The composition of claim 15 wherein said component is a magainin antimicrobial peptide.

26. The composition of claim 15 wherein said component is an analog of a magainin antimicrobial peptide comprising the amino acid sequence GIGKFLKKAKKFGKAFVKILKK.

27. The composition of claim 15 wherein said composition is applied onto or into an eye.

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28. An ophthalmic composition comprising a component selected from the group consisting of magainin antimicrobial peptides, analogs of magainin antimicrobial peptides and mixtures thereof present in an amount effective as a preservative in said composition, wherein said composition is an oil-in-water emulsion.

29. The composition of claim 28 wherein said component is present in an amount less than about 10 milligrams per milliliter.

30. The composition of claim 28 wherein said component is present in an amount less than about 1 milligram per milliliter.

31. The composition of claim 28 wherein said component is present in an amount less than about 0.1 milligram per milliliter.

32. The composition of claim 28 which further comprises an effective amount of a buffer component in an amount effective to provide said composition with a desired pH.

33. The composition of claim 28 which further comprises an effective amount of a tonicity component in an amount effective to provide said composition with a desired osmolality.

34. The composition of claim 28 wherein said composition is a surgical irrigant.

35. The composition of claim 28 wherein said component is a magainin antimicrobial peptide.

36. The composition of claim 28 wherein said component is an analog of a magainin antimicrobial

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peptide comprising the amino acid sequence
GIGKFLKKAKKFGKAFVKILKK.

37. The composition of claim 13 wherein said composition is applied onto or into an eye.

38. An ophthalmic composition comprising a component wherein said component is an analog of a magainin antimicrobial peptide comprising the amino acid sequence GIGKFLKKAKKFGKAFVKILKK, and wherein said
5 component is present in an amount effective as a preservative in said composition.

39. The composition of claim 38 wherein said component is present in an amount less than about 10 milligrams per milliliter.

40. The composition of claim 38 wherein said component is present in an amount less than about 1 milligram per milliliter.

41. The composition of claim 38 wherein said component is present in an amount less than about 0.1 milligram per milliliter.

42. The composition of claim 38 which further comprises water and an effective amount of a buffer component in an amount effective to provide said composition with a desired pH.

43. The composition of claim 38 which further comprises an effective amount of a tonicity component in an amount effective to provide said composition with a desired osmolality.

44. The composition of claim 38 wherein said composition is a solution.

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45. The composition of claim 38 wherein said composition is a suspension.

46. The composition of claim 38 wherein said composition is applied onto or into an eye.

47. An ophthalmic composition comprising a component selected from the group consisting of magainin antimicrobial peptides, analogs of magainin antimicrobial peptides and mixtures thereof present in an amount effective as a preservative in said composition, wherein said composition is applied onto or into an eye.

48. The composition of claim 47 wherein said composition is a surgical irrigant.

49. The composition of claim 47 wherein said component is present in an amount less than about 10 milligrams per milliliter.

50. The composition of claim 47 wherein said component is present in an amount less than about 1 milligram per milliliter.

51. The composition of claim 47 wherein said component is present in an amount less than about 0.1 milligram per milliliter.

52. The composition of claim 47 which further comprises water and an effective amount of a buffer component in an amount effective to provide said composition with a desired pH.

53. The composition of claim 47 which further comprises an effective amount of a tonicity component in an amount effective to provide said composition with a desired osmolality.

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54. The composition of claim 47 wherein said composition is a solution.

55. The composition of claim 47 wherein said composition is a suspension.

56. The composition of claim 47 wherein said composition is a surgical irrigant.

57. The composition of claim 47 wherein said component is a magainin antimicrobial peptide.

58. An ophthalmic composition comprising an antimicrobial peptide mimetic present in an amount effective as a preservative in said composition.

59. The composition of claim 58 wherein said component is present in an amount less than about 10 milligrams per milliliter.

60. The composition of claim 58 wherein said component is present in an amount less than about 1 milligram per milliliter.

61. The composition of claim 58 wherein said component is present in an amount less than about 0.1 milligram per milliliter.

62. The composition of claim 58 which further comprises water and an effective amount of a buffer component in an amount effective to provide said composition with a desired pH.

63. The composition of claim 58 which further comprises an effective amount of a tonicity component in an amount effective to provide said composition with a desired osmolality.

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65. The composition of claim 58 wherein said component is a sole preservative.

67. The composition of claim 58 wherein said composition is a solution.

69. The composition of claim 58 wherein said composition is applied onto or into an eye.

70. The composition of claim 58 wherein said composition includes a therapeutically effective component.

contacting an ophthalmic composition with a component selected from the group consisting of 5 magainin antimicrobial peptides, analogs of magainin antimicrobial peptides and mixtures thereof present in an amount effective as a preservative in said composition, wherein said composition is an oil-in-water emulsion.

contacting an ophthalmic composition with a
magainin antimicrobial peptide in an amount effective
5 as a preservative in said composition, wherein said
composition is an oil-in-water emulsion.

73. A method for treating an eye comprising:

contacting an eye with a liquid medium including a component selected from the group consisting of magainin antimicrobial peptides, analogs of magainin antimicrobial peptides and mixtures thereof in an amount effective as a preservative in said liquid medium, wherein said composition is an oil-in-water emulsion.

74. A method for treating an eye comprising:

contacting an eye with a liquid medium, said liquid medium comprising a magainin antimicrobial peptide in an amount effective as a preservative in said liquid medium.

75. An ophthalmic composition comprising a

component selected from the group consisting of magainin antimicrobial peptides, analogs of magainin antimicrobial peptides and mixtures thereof present in an amount effective as a preservative in said composition, wherein said composition is provided in a multidose format and wherein said composition is an oil-in-water emulsion.

76. An ophthalmic composition comprising a

magainin antimicrobial peptide present in an amount effective as a preservative in said composition, wherein said composition is provided in a multidose format and wherein said composition is an oil-in-water emulsion.

77. An ophthalmic composition comprising a

component wherein said component is an analog of a magainin antimicrobial peptide comprising the amino acid sequence GIGKFLKKAKKFGKAFVKILKK, and wherein said component is present in an amount effective as a preservative in said composition, wherein said composition is provided in a multidose format and wherein said composition is an oil-in-water emulsion.

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contacting an ophthalmic composition with an antimicrobial peptide mimetic in an amount effective
5 as a preservative in said composition.

80. A method for treating an eye comprising:
contacting an eye with a liquid medium, said
liquid medium comprising a magainin antimicrobial
peptide in an amount effective as a preservative in
said liquid medium.